

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of September 29, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 and 4-6. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Izumi (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,898), and rejected claims 3, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,654). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a connecting pattern having an open portion between the drain electrode of the TFT and the data line, wherein the open portion electrically disconnects the drain electrode from the data line..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-9, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: **December 27, 2004**

Respectfully submitted,

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